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USACE

WILMINGTON DISTRICT NEWS

OCTOBER 2017

New Commander Eager to Lead Varied Capabilities of South Atlantic Division

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

South Atlantic Division Commander Brig. Gen. Diana Holland is amazed by the transformation of Fort Bragg since she was a captain assigned to the 20th Engineer Battalion years ago. During a tour hosted by Wilmington District Commander Robert Clark and his staff of Fort Bragg facilities there were areas that she didn't recognize. She marveled at the state-of-the-art facilities being built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and how they'll benefit the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC). She liked the feedback from customers from the Wilmington District-constructed headquarters of the 92nd Civil Affairs Battalion.

Ron Cannady, Chief of the SAW's USASOC Resident Engineer Office, explains design efficiency in a room at the Language and Culture Center to Brig.. Gen. Diana Holland as SAW Chief of Construction Branch Dennis Lynch, back right, and civil engineer Christopher Whitley listen in.

"They were so excited to move in there," she said. "I normally don't run into Soldiers who are excited about moving out of their building, even if it's not the greatest quality. Nobody wants to move. But they could not wait to get in that building. They were doing high fives and they were ready to go."

Brig. Gen. Holland took command of SAD on July 18th. As an engineer officer during her entire career of 27 years, she's eager to see more of the division now that she's a USACE commander. During a joint town hall meeting of Wilmington District and Savannah District members at Fort Bragg, she said that her first impression of the quality work she saw at the installation was outstanding.

"What an amazing organization. I've heard my entire career from fellow engineer officers once you've gone to the Corps of Engineers

Con't on page 3

Brig. Gen. Diana Holland Biography

Brigadier General Diana M. Holland graduated from the United States Military Academy and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1990.

Brigadier General Holland's military service began in Germany where she served as a vertical construction platoon leader in the 79th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy), and as a company executive officer and battalion assistant operations officer in the 94th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). Upon returning to the United States, BG Holland was assigned to the 30th Engineer Battalion (Topographic), 20th Engineer Brigade, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and served as the battalion logistics officer and then as the commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Following company command, BG Holland earned a Master of Arts degree at Duke University en route to a teaching assignment at the United States Military Academy. She then attended the Army Command and General Staff College and the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) where she earned a Master of Military Arts and Science degree.

She was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in July 2004, and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom III serving as a division plans officer and then as the operations officer in the 92nd Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy). Upon return from Iraq, BG Holland served as a plans officer in the Operations Directorate, United States Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Brigadier General Holland commanded the 92nd Engineer Battalion (Black Diamonds) from July 2008 to June 2011. She deployed with Task Force Diamond to eastern Afghanistan from May 2010 to April 2011. After relinquishing command, BG Holland was a United States Army War College Fellow at Georgetown University.

In 2012, BG Holland assumed command of the 130th Engineer Brigade at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The following year, she deployed with the Brigade Headquarters to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan where the unit served as the Theater Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Sapper. The Brigade redeployed to Schofield Barracks in June 2014 and Brigadier General Holland relinquished command in July. During 2015, BG Holland served as executive officer to the Director of the Army Staff at the Pentagon and then Deputy Commanding General for Support, 10th Mountain Division (LI) at Fort Drum, New York, and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Most recently, BG

Holland was assigned as the Commandant of Cadets at the United States Military Academy, West Point.

Brigadier General Holland's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (w/ OLC), Bronze Star (w/2 OLC), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (w/4 OLC), the Combat Action Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, the German Parachutist Badge and the Silver Order of the de Fleury Medal.

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

SAD COMMANDER CON'T

you're never going to want to leave it," she said. "I've had a pretty good time in the engineer regiment and in the Army and all of the amazing things I've been able to do. Since taking command I'm beginning to understand why my peers who've had more opportunities to be in the Corps are such big fans. And I can tell you all of the reasons that you already know; the passion that you have, the competency, the technical expertise whether you're an engineer or our resource manager or all of the functions that make an impression. And you're just so passionate about what you do."

Resident engineer Michael Hinsley explains the layout of a USASOC facility to SAD Commander Brig.. Gen. Diana Holland.

Brig. Gen. Holland said that she's seeing how large of a mission the South Atlantic Division carries. And she's more than ready to lead the Districts.

"I think that what's been most impressive for somebody like myself who's only been on the operational/ tactical side of the engineer branch is the scope of what USACE does," she explained. "Not that it's foreign to me, but it's just the scope. The amount of responsibility that we have and just how complicated the projects are in the interest of the stakeholders and the funding aspect of it."

As an Army engineer officer and commander of a predominantly civilian organization, she said that there's plenty of talk about the Corps of Engineers' capabilities for potentially contributing to the Nation's crumbling infrastructure.

Brig. Gen. Holland, front, receives a briefing on the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Language and Culture Center.

"The mix of being an Army organization, but being a real federal agency is amazing. The seat that the Corps of Engineers has at the table when it comes to talking about the Nation's infrastructure improvements and the Corps' role in that is creating exciting times ahead."

As for the future of USACE in regards to a question at the town hall meeting about an aging workforce that's starting to retire, she said that there's a lot of focus on trying to recruit and maintain young engineers.

"The Corps is having a lot of discussions about hiring and recruiting to bring young people in. The Corps in general, if you look at the demographics, is an aging workforce. So we're focusing in on young people and bringing in new ideas and innovation. And I would say that if even though the private sector may pay more I just can't imagine that it can be as varied and rewarding as performing engineering with the Corps."

Preliminary Damage Assessment Team Inspects Coastal Storm Risk Management Projects

Wilmington District civil engineers Kevin Conner and Doug Wall stroll along Wrightsville Beach's southern end near Masonboro Inlet. What they're looking for are any changes in the profile of this Coastal Storm Risk Management project or for signs of erosion. They're part of a Preliminary Damage Assessment team and their mission is to document any damage that may have been caused by recent hurricane activity.

Coastal engineers Doug Wall, left, and Kevin Conner check data of Wrightsville Beach at the mid-section of the project.

"In general, when we go out to the beach we are looking for signs of impact from the storm on our federal project," said Chief of Water Resources Section Kevin Conner. "These include sand scarps along the beach berm and toe of the dune, damage to the dune or its vegetation, changes in beach width, changes in the beach nearshore slope, as well as collecting data on high water lines and damages to cross overs."

Conner said if damage is observed to structures they typically photograph and report them back to the Wilmington District Emergency Operations who then forwards the information to the state Emergency Operations center in Raleigh.

The Wilmington District's federal projects generally have an authorized fixed beach profile template such as dunes or storm berms that can be overlaid with detailed survey data of elevations from the dune along the dry beach and into the water. Wall said that if the fixed template is present before a storm, then storm damages would be less than if that fixed template had already eroded away before the storm.

"With the long history of most of our beach projects, we have data that show the spots that erode faster," Wall said. "Usually the worst erosion areas are within the transition zone where the fixed template tapers back into the natural beach."

What makes a beach better able to withstand the effects of constant pounding by waves is the type of material that's initially placed within the federal boundaries of the project.

Con't on Page 5

Damage Assessment Con't

Wall, left, and Conner refer to older photos of Wrightsville Beach and compare them to what they actually see during their inspection.

Wilmington District geologists take numerous samples of compatible material long before it's placed in the designated area.

"Matching sand grain size to the native material which the project was designed around is critical to the performance of the project," Conner said. "Our geotechnical section does a great job at initially identifying our borrow areas and evaluates these areas prior to placements to pinpoint locations within the designated borrow area that supplies the material that is best suited for the project."

Conner said that while there visible signs of potential damage that they document, there are things that they can't see. The data they collect is critical for volumetric analysis.

"Typically we collect material on the dry portion of the beach only with our district survey crew," he explained. "While this is a good measure of volumetric change immediately following a storm it does not reflect the total beach change. Many times material is moved from the dry portion of the beach offshore during a storm. This material can naturally recover back onto the beach following a storm event. If given significant time to recover the storm may not result in significant beach loss."

Conner said that it's difficult to estimate recovery rate since each storm is different and hydrodynamic conditions following each storm are different. The only way to fully capture the impact of the storm event, he said, is to have a hydrographic survey of the beach conducted which would measure the underwater portion of the profile.

"Of course this is difficult to do immediately following a storm since it involves contracting out the survey and significantly more cost."

Wall and Conner check the slope of the north end of Wrightsville Beach. The type of sand that is placed on the beach during dredging operations is calculated to stay on the beach longer.

Coast Guard Builds Strong Relationship with Wilmington District Through Invaluable Training Program

When organizations build relationships and get to know more about each other's operations and functions, it can become a win-win situation. It builds trust and understanding, not only between the organizations, but with the public as well.

U.S. Coast Guard officer Lt. Eunice James spent six months learning about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District as the first Waterways Manager in the Coast Guard's Industry Training program. As the Waterways Management Division Chief for Coast Guard Sector North Carolina based in Wilmington, she finds that her time with the District is mutually beneficial to both organizations, and she was began applying what she learned immediately in her day-to-day responsibility of managing the federal waterways.

"I get calls from the public telling me that there's debris in the channel and they want to know if the Coast Guard can remove it," James said. "Sometimes the public doesn't understand our role verses the Corps' role and missions. I got exposed to everything from operations, to logistics, to budgeting, to legal, and it increased my understanding of how the Coast Guard and Corps of Engineers work together. Prior to coming here I didn't have much experience with the Corps of Engineers," said James.

James said that the Coast Guard and USACE share jurisdictional responsibilities. USACE, she said, is responsible for things underneath the water, and the USCG is responsible for things on the water like the aids to navigation. She now also has a better understanding of USACE's dredging operations and the specific guidelines for these dredging operations.

U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Eunice James looks at navigation maps with Wilmington District Plant Section Chief Joen Petersen, center, and cartographer Dennis Moran.

"When we get calls from stakeholders or the general public reporting shoaling and the problems associated with it, I now have a better understanding of how to coordinate with USACE to see if it's within their jurisdiction, and if they can put it on their schedule," said James. "If we have aids-to-navigation on that waterway, then we'll work to shift the aids outside of the dredge area, and put them back in post-dredging. Since I saw how the process works, I can help explain that USACE has a process and it's not as simple as going out to dredge."

James said that one specific area of the Corps that she relies on to do her job is the Wilmington District's survey section. When a survey vessel relays data they have analyzed, she and her Coast Guard team can make more sound determinations faster about the navigability of certain waterways and the placement of aids to navigation.

"This assignment gave me good insight into how surveys are done," said James. "In my job, I rely heavily on those surveys, so when a new survey is posted, I use it right away, especially in the more critical inlet and inlet crossing

Con't on Page 7

Coast Guard Con't

areas. We can look at the condition of the waterways, and decide if it could be a potentially dangerous situation to mariners and if so, we take steps to reposition the aids or remove them if necessary. That's how much we rely on the Army Corps of Engineers' surveys to get our job done."

The Coast Guard missions are unique and varied. Their missions focus on maritime safety, maritime, security, and maritime stewardship. This includes law enforcement and intelligence operations and operations to promote the safety of the maritime public. Working in the dynamic areas of coastal North Carolina means that there are challenges with their ability to conduct some of their missions. They must be able to quickly and safely get in and out of their Coast Guard stations to respond to emergency situations.

"At Bogue Inlet we have a small search and rescue boat station," James said. "When it shoaled in a few weeks ago, we had an issue with getting out of one route, and we also received shoaling reports from numerous mariners. I reached out to the District and they were able to go through their processes and work with the local municipality to get in and dredge the area so we and the boating public could safely traverse. When we're fighting Mother Nature, it is paramount that our two organizations work together to get things done quickly."

During times of inclement weather, James said critical decisions must be made about closing the deep draft commercial ports.

"When we're ready to re-open the port through a Memorandum of Agreement that we have with the Army Corps of Engineers, they immediately survey the deep water commercial ports and conduct some initial aids verifications after a hurricane to assist the Captain of the Port with making the determination that it is safe to re-open."

She also said that the inlets are so dynamic, especially during hurricane season, that the Coast Guard carefully monitors their condition and assesses buoy placement, relocations, or if necessary, their removal from the water. If the aids are not marking a safe route they have a responsibility to do what is necessary to reduce the risks to mariners which includes removing the aids. The Coast Guard is aware of how much the marine traffic depends on them so this is not a decision they take lightly.

"It takes people and resources to move the buoys, so we have to make smart decisions and be as efficient as possible," explained James.

James' relationship with the Corps is more than paying off. She now knows a lot of people in the District, and it's important to her to have the kind of camaraderie where she can pick up the phone and they'll know it's her and she knows them. After all, that is what relationships are about.

"It makes things easier. A lot of times my chain of command will ask me to call the Army Corps of Engineers to see what they're doing in certain cases. Anyone can call, but it's much easier to have a person who has a relationship that's already established asking the questions."

Buoytender from Coast Guard Sector North Carolina repositions buoys in Bogue Inlet. (USCG Photo)

DO YOU KNOW HOW TO PREPARE FOR A HURRICANE? WHAT ABOUT AFTER?

Hurricane season begins on June 1st. People get inundated with useful information about how to prepare for a hurricane. But how do you prepare for the aftermath of a hurricane?

"You need to listen to local officials when you come back to your area," said Communications Officer Julia Jarema of the N.C. Department of Public Safety of those people who may have had to evacuate after a hurricane. "Fortunately for us, we didn't see devastation and damage from Hurricane Irma like we did from Hurricane Matthew last year. Local officials know when it's safe to come back. And trust me, they do not want to issue evacuation orders unless they absolutely have to."

Jarema stressed that local authorities don't want to keep people away to get their lives and property back in order. She said that they will do everything in their power so that their time away is minimal, but that concern for their safety is first and foremost.

"There could be downed power lines, destruction of roads and flooding," she said. "The last thing we need to do is add more people to congested roads that are awaiting debris removal. There were more than 600 road closures in North Carolina after Hurricane Matthew. Roughly a dozen of them were opened by spring. The N.C. Department of Transportation had to wait for a long time before roads and bridges were safe."

Downed trees sometimes mean downed power lines that can be hidden by fallen debris.

Jarema said that even though local North Carolinians, who've lived in the state all of their lives, have a good understanding of what to do before and after a hurricane, they might downplay the severity of a storm. She also said that there are people moving from other areas of the country to the state and have never experienced a hurricane.

"We lost 31 people in Hurricane Matthew, 31 in North Carolina alone. Most of those deaths were after the storm had cleared. The roads were still flooded and people either walked on the roads or drove on flooded roads thinking that it wasn't a big deal. However, some cars got swept away and submerged or those who were walking got swept away. They underestimated the power of the water."

Jarema added that hurricanes aren't just isolated to coastal North Carolina. There are 100 counties in the state and each one of them can be affected.

"Even inland people think that they're safe because they're not on the coast. If you've been in North Carolina for a while you know that every single county is impacted by hurricanes including the far western counties. As we've seen with Irma it was bigger than the size of Texas. It had rains and winds that hit the far western part of North Carolina."`

Con't on Page 9

AFTER HURRICANE CON'T

Useful Tips on How to Prepare After a Hurricane

* Listen to local officials for updates and instructions.
* Check in with family and friends by texting or using social media.
* Return home only when authorities indicate that it is safe.
* Watch out for debris and downed –power lines.
* Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just six inches of moving water can knock you down, and one foot of fast-moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
* Avoid flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
* Photograph the damage to your property in order to assist in filing an insurance claim.
* Do what you can to prevent further damage to your property such as putting a tarp on a damaged roof as insurance may not cover additional damage that occurs after the storm.

CORPS PROVIDES TEMPORARY POWER TO BRING CLEAN WATER TO THOUSANDS OF U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS RESIDENTS

Note– The following article was sent by Baltimore District public affairs deployee Becca Nappi who's helping to support the U.S. Virgin Islands recovery mission.

By Becca Nappi

ST. CROIX – After almost two weeks without potable water, over 25,000 residents on the tropical island of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands felt water flow from their sinks and showers for the first time since Hurricane Maria ripped through the tropical island.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restored temporary power to the Concordia Lift Station on September 26, 2017. This lift station moves potable water from the St. Croix Seven Seas Water Production Plant to the western area of St. Croix, delivering a large portion of the island's potable water supply.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers restored temporary power to the Concordia Lift Station on September 26, 2017. This lift station moves potable water from the St. Croix Seven Seas Water Production Plant to the western area of St. Croix, delivering a large portion of the island's potable water supply.

After Hurricane Maria barreled through the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Concordia Lift Station lost complete power and could no longer push water to its residents, leaving them without running sinks, showers and flushable toilets.

"We're here to give people hope that they can come back from any type of natural disaster and get some of those necessities," said Marie Normandie, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Croix Power Team Action Officer.

Restoring temporary power to the Concordia Lift Station unsurprisingly was no solo task and involved strategic coordination between multiple territorial and federal agencies.

Prior to Hurricane Maria's arrival, territory officials identified critical public facilities that were crucial for

Con't on Page 11

CLEAN WATER CON'T

operations post-storm. After the storm, the Waste and Power Authority (WAPA) on St. Croix found the lift station without power and water was no longer available for over half the island.

The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) then requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency provide temporary power to such a critical infrastructure until permanent power could be restored.

As FEMA's engineers, the Corps was tasked in restoring temporary power through its Emergency Power Planning and Response Teams. These Corps teams provide the capabilities to deploy and provide support to states during disasters that range from technical expertise to "turn key" installation of emergency generators at critical public facilities.

"We service FEMA by providing expertise in not only temporary emergency power but also temporary blue roofing, infrastructure assessment and public facilities," said Cole Stonebrook, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission Liaison for the Virgin Island Power Team. "All of our teams work together to identify any shortfalls in order to provide our customer, the territory, with a speedy application of emergency power to the most critical areas."

A Corps Pre-Installation Inspection Team (PIIT) assessed the Concordia Lift Station and determined the proper generator type and size that would allow the lift station to run as designed until primary power can be restored.

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An appropriate generator was found on St. Thomas, prompting the Corps to work with the National Guard to deliver the generator to St. Croix, where Corps contractors were ready for installation. After a fuel fill from the Nation Guard, the generator was up and running, providing the final piece for the Concordia Lift Station to push water to over 25,000 residents once again.

"I'm very satisfied that we were able to provide drinking water to those who haven't had it," Normandie said. "Since I've been here, I've seen a lot of strife but I've also heard a lot of 'thank you for being here' and it makes the job worthwhile."

The Corps' Emergency Power Planning and Response Teams are continuing to work closely with FEMA, WAPA and the territory government to execute more temporary power missions for other critical infrastructures throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands.

REGULATORY PROJECT MANAGERS KEEP CLOSE EYE ON WETLANDS PRESERVATION

Regulatory project manager Tom Charles sets his eyes on markers on a private home lot that have been marked as the beginning of wetlands. With a tool called an auger, he drills down less than a foot to bring up a soil sample.

"Wetland soil is mucky," he said. "It's black with no visible white specks of sand grains. Past the markers it's fill dirt. I can tell because the soil is usually bright from uplands areas."

Regulatory project manager Tom Charles, center, checks the plant species and soil that he dug up with an auger to see if the area is considered wetlands. At right is regulatory project manager Rachel Capito.

The Corps of Engineers was contacted to determine which areas of the lot were considered wetlands. The owner plans to demolish an existing home and build two new ones. He also plans to construct amenities that lead down to the water's edge.

"I'm not certain a permit will be required," he said. "If the walkway going to the existing boat dock is above a certain height and is not going to have concrete fill, then no permit is needed. If the project requires the discharge of fill material into wetlands, then a permit will be required. The driveway and new houses will not need a permit because they're located in uplands and are not considered wetlands."

Field inspections like this happen regularly for the Wilmington District's Regulatory Field Office. An influx of people and businesses in the greater Wilmington area means that areas that need protecting must be carefully scrutinized by regulatory project managers.

"Wetlands are critically important natural resources in our landscape, providing habitat for aquatic and land species, protection from wave action and erosion, storage areas for storm and flood waters, and natural water filtration and purification functions," said Wilmington Regulatory Field Office Chief Eric Reusch. "Although individual alterations of wetlands may constitute a minor change, the

Con't on Page 13

REGULATORY CON'T

cumulative effect of numerous changes often results in major damage to the aquatic environment upon which we all depend, especially in rapidly developing coastal areas."

Reusch explained that the Corps' Regulatory Program is tasked with protecting the aquatic environment and navigation while allowing for reasonable development. It does this, he said, through the permit application review process, which balances the protection of aquatic resources with the need for development. This review process requires the avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources, including wetlands.

"Only unavoidable impacts to wetlands are permitted, and for many projects compensatory mitigation, in the form of wetland restoration or enhancement, is required to offset lost wetland functions due to development," he said.

At left is wetlands soil which is dark and moist and is compact because of the moisture content. Regulatory project managers can easily tell the difference between that and fill dirt.

Reusch said that the general public in Wilmington enjoys the recreational benefits of coastal wetlands. Fishermen enjoy the variety of fish species that thrive in the coastal wetlands habitat, and boaters of all types enjoy aesthetically pleasing areas in which to paddle and recreate.

Charles and Capito look at maps of the lot to get a better look at where the house and amenities are going to be built. They can then match up that information with outlines of areas that are wetlands.

"I have always appreciated wildlife and spending time outdoors and have seen the negative impacts of pollution and wetland destruction on the streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries that I fish and kayak in," he said. "I have also learned how important it is to protect natural areas, including wetlands, for our quality of life and the quality of life of future generations. I am fortunate that my career with the Corps allows me to be part of a team committed to providing public service by protecting wetlands while also ensuring that reasonable development moves forward for the benefit of the public."

DISTRICT WOOS POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES AT NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY CAREER FAIR

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is slowly beginning to see the attrition of the older generation of engineers and scientists retiring Corps-wide. USACE officials are focusing now on maintaining the workforce by recruiting from colleges and universities to enter the organization with innovative ideas and teamwork.

Earlier this year, the Wilmington District signed a partnership agreement with North Carolina A&T to establish and recognize the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) to the future political and economic well-being of the Nation, and to the importance of N.C. A&T to the business, industrial, and governmental institutions in North Carolina as well as the overall USACE objective to attract a highly competent and diverse STEM workforce by increasing the diversity talent pool through the use of formal partnerships with Minority-Serving Institutions and/or Engineering Colleges and Universities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was one of more than 200 employers and 37 industries that attended the career fair.

At North Carolina Agriculture & Technical's Career Awareness Fair on September 13th, Wilmington District representative Mike Shaw highlighted the various missions and potential jobs in science and engineering to students looking for work when they graduate.

"Career Day was completely sold out," said Shaw. "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was among 215 employers and 37 industries that were represented."

Shaw said most students knew little about USACE, and that most of their questions centered on who are we and what do we do. He said that students were very interested in the Corps' different career disciplines such as accounting, biology, natural resources, or construction management. He

Con't on Page 15

A&T CAREER FAIR CON'T

spoke with seven civil engineer graduate students about one position that was currently open for graduate students.

"Overall, out of all of the students I had an in-depth discussion with about the Corps and the recent graduate position, I did not get a sense that they were chasing a dollar for the highest bidder for their talent," he said. "Although we are competing with several well-known private companies and other government agencies, when I discussed the pay scale for entry level positions to the target GS-11 pay grade I think the students were very interested because of the wide array of professional job disciplines the Corps has to offer."

There's a critical need to recruit scientists and engineers from colleges and universities to join USACE. Depending on the type of job, the Corps of Engineers is trying to attract potential employee with a unique approach; public service over a higher salary.

"As we are becoming less competitive salary-wise with the private sector, I try to push the public service aspect of what we do," said Wilmington District Chief of Engineering Greg Williams. "I describe how our projects provide benefit to the public at large, but even in some cases to individual homeowners. Much of what we do actually makes a difference to help those that may not be able to help themselves."

Williams said another selling point for potential employees is its training program that allows new hires to get exposed to many different offices over a two-year period to find the right fit in the right section.

"Currently we have two recent grads that are doing extended details in Las Vegas, Nevada and Davis, California, so the training rotations are not just in Wilmington."

Williams said in many cases, engineers want and expect to get a high salary. He's found that many new graduates also want challenges, opportunity, and experience.

"With the Corps, there are both opportunities to grow and develop and opportunities to do varied things in varied places," he explained. "With over 30 District offices across the country and more overseas, there are tremendous opportunities for varied types of work in varied locations from New York to New Orleans, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Japan and Germany and many places in between. In the past several years, I have found that this idea of maximizing their experience as something that appeals to new graduates."

Mike Shaw, a 1983 graduate of North Carolina A&T, represented the Wilmington District at the Career Fair.

DISTRICT BIDS FAREWELL AND HAPPY RETIREMENT TO FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF GEORGE BURCH

The Wilmington District said goodbye to Mr. George Burch who helped guide and advise numerous District Commanders as SAW's Chief of Staff. Mr. Burch said goodbye to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as SAW's latest retiree after 39 years of service with the District. He served as the District's Chief of Staff since 1993. As a testament to his loyal service, seven former District Commanders attended his retirement ceremony as well as one by video.

Burch is a proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He retired at the rank of Master Sergeant in 1977, and received the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal.

The District wishes Mr. Burch an enjoyable and healthy retirement. Thank you for your military service and service to the public.

Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Jonathan Johnston presents George with his official retirement certificate.

Former Wilmington District Commander Col. Ray Alexander (US Army Ret.) presents Burch with the Silver de Fleury Medal for his service to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Behind Burch to the left is former SAW Commander Col. Wayne Hanson (US Army Ret.), and behind and to the right is another former District Commander, Col. James DeLony (US Army ret.).

Supporting the District

ACE-IT

ACE-IT is currently in full swing with the migration to Windows 10. This is a required upgrade, and it will help and improve overall security to keep our systems running smoothly from malware, spam, etc and keep in compliance. The migration will take place in stages. Local ACE-IT Staff have already begun migrating here in the District. ACE-IT will slowly be moving to others shortly

Because of this necessary migration we ask that you be patient as we make the transition from the outdated software to Windows 10. Your computer run more smoothly through the process, and yes, there will be some adjustments that we might have to make. We ask that you bear with us as we update all computers.

ULA

Transportation:
Communicate your vehicle needs with logistics when making a reservation. This will allow the transportation tech to ensure your vehicle needs are meet. It's a requirement to have a PR&C ready when requesting a vehicle. Please make sure the tank is at least 3/4 full when returning vehicle. You are only hurting your fellow district members if you return a vehicle less than half a tank full.
All vehicles have a designated parking spot, so please park in appropriate space. POC for all transportation needs is Celia Wilkerson@ 4649

Facility:
We continue to have requests to change the temperature in different parts of the building. We will try our best to accommodate everyone. If the building is too cold for you please bring in a sweater. We try to keep the building around 73-75 during the summer months and 68-72 during the winter months. Please dress accordingly. POC for all building related issue is Mike Baxter@ 4648

Supply:
All hand receipt holders should be sub hand receipting their property to their employees. Please come see the supply specialist so that he can assist you on this process. If you have broken or excess equipment turn the items in. It will help reduce the amount of junk in your area and also reduce your hand receipt. POC for all Property concerns is Dean Rodbourn@ 4485

SAFETY

National Fire Prevention Week is 8 -14 October, but you should practice it throughout the year. You should have an escape plan at home and at work. In a fire seconds count. Seconds can mean the difference between YOU escaping safely or YOU having your life end in tragedy. Plan your escape plan, discuss it with your family, and practice it.
For more information about fire prevention please go to the following link; www.nfpa.org

EEO

Each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, the Army community joins the nation in both reflecting upon and celebrating the tremendous contributions of Hispanic Americans serving in the U.S. Army for more than 236 years in support of the nation and securing peace worldwide. The legacy of these individuals is one of exceptional service, which remains evident today in various functional areas of the force and levels of leadership. This time of celebration actually dates back nearly 50 years to 1968, when President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, Congress and President Ronald Reagan expanded it to a full month to better honor Hispanic heritage in America. Hispanic American patriots have long served with courage in the uniform of the United States among our armed forces. At this very moment, more than a quarter million Latinos are serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, the Coast Guard, and the Reserves.